

## **Safety Alert**

**No. 98-06**

**Subject:**

UH-1 Helicopters

**Distribution:**

All DOI Aviation Activities

**Discussion:** Safety Alert No. 98-05 is rescinded. DOI grounding of UH-1 helicopters has been expanded to include those equipped with T53-L-703 and T53-L-13 engines. These engines are experiencing spur gear failures caused by vibrations.

**Recommendations:** Procedures for preventing spur gear failures and returning these helicopters to service are addressed on the back of this alert. DOI employees are prohibited from riding aboard UH-1 Helicopters equipped with T53-L-703 and T53-L-13 engines until the appropriate procedure has been completed and the helicopter has been returned to service.

If you have any questions regarding this subject please contact your OAS Area/Regional office:

Alaska Regional Office (Anchorage)	907-271-3700
East Area Office (Atlanta)	770-458-7474
West Area Office (Boise)	208-334-9310
West Area Office (Phoenix)	602-640-2633

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**United States Department of the Interior  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**

**Office of Aircraft Services**

P.O. Box 15428  
Boise, ID 83715-5428

In reply refer to:  
104

May 21, 1998

**Memorandum**

To: Aviation Board of Directors

From: Director, OAS

Subject: Return to Use of UH-1 Helicopters

Recently we sent out a memorandum explaining the grounding of UH-1 helicopters equipped with the T53-L-13B engine. This grounding has now been extended to UH-1 helicopters equipped with the T53-L-703 engine. This memorandum will explain how all of these aircraft can be returned to service.

Military UH-1 helicopters will be returned to service by the military in accordance with U.S. Army Safety of Flight message, Technical Screening Procedures for UH-1 Series Aircraft with T53L13B Engine, P/N 1-000-060-22, Installed, (UH-1-98-05) dated April 15, 1998.

All Federal Excess Personnel Property (FEPP) program helicopters operated by the states and those UH-1 series helicopters operated by commercial entities will be returned to service in accordance with Allied Signal Service Bulletin T53-L-13B-0100 Engine-General-Introduction of a Special Vibration Check dated May 5, 1998 or Allied Signal Service Bulletin T53-L-703-0100 Engine-General-Introduction of a Special Vibration Check dated May 5, 1998 as applicable. The Department of the Interior will not use helicopters covered by Service Bulletin T53-L-13B-0100 or Service Bulletin T53-L-703-0100 until they have successfully completed the testing protocol and a new Aircraft Data Card or cooperator letter has been issued.

This memorandum parallels the U.S. Forest Service memorandum dated May 11, 1998 concerning the return to service of UH-1 Helicopters.

/s/ Elmer Hurd